THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b) Workers of some textile mills in Tamil Nadu had gone on strike, *inter alia* on the issue of take over of certain closed textile mills by the State Government pursuant to discussions between the Trade Unions and the State Government the strike was called off.

(c) As per the information available there were 20 cotton Textile Mills lying closed at the end of February, 1986.

(d) As a consequence of the closure of these mills around 33 lakhs mandays were lost and loss of production of cloth and yarn was estimated to be around 93 lakh meters, and around 246 lakh kgs. respectively, upto the month of February, 1986.

(e) Government do not propose to take over the closed textile mills. As laid down in the New Textile Policy, take over by the Government or nationalisation of sick units does not provide a solution to the problems of sickness and the Government would not, as a rule, intervene in such cases.

Profits Earned by the Modern Rice Mills run by the Food Corporation of India

682. SHRI THANGABAALU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the modern rice mills run by the Food Corporation of India are earning profits;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to sell these mills to the private parties; and

(c) how many modern rice mills under the FCI are running in loss and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(c) All the 25 modern rice mills of the Food Corporation of India are economically and operationally non-viable because of worn out machinery, inadequate availability of required quality of paddy, power shortage etc.

Request of Andhra Pradesh Government to permit it to procure rice through the Food Corporation of India

683. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to permit the State Government to procure 27 lakhs tonnes of rice through the Food Corporation of India to meet the requirements of the State under Rs. 2 a kg., rice scheme;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this request was not acceded to by the Central Government; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The procurement of such a large quantity in a rice consuming State, in the context of present production, would not be conducive to the food economy of the region.

684. [*Transferred to the 7th May, 1986*].